

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 05260 01 OF 02 261541Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5505

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USLOSACLANT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 5260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC, NAC

SUBJ: MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION OF STANDARDIZATION - SOME OPTIONS

REF: A. USNATO 5079 DTG 181155Z SEP 75

B. USNATO 4926 DTG 111545Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: WE SEE A PROCEDURAL ISSUE DEVELOPING OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS CONCERNING THE BEST WAY FOR ALLIES TO ADDRESS STANDARDIZATION IN UPCOMING MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. IF ALLIES AGREE TO THE US INITIATIVE, INITIAL STEPS ON STANDARDIZATION WILL BE TAKEN UNDER NAC AUSPICES SO AS TO INCLUDE FRANCE AND GREECE. NEVERTHELESS, IN MANY COUNTRIES, STANDARDIZATION WILL REMAIN PRIMARILY A DEFENSE MATTER AND THE SUPPORT OF DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO PROGRESS IN THIS AREA. WE THEREFORE OFFER FOR WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION FIVE OPTIONS FOR RESOLVING THIS PROCEDURAL ISSUE AND PROPOSE WE BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER ON AN INFORMAL BASIS WITH ALLIES TO SOLICIT THEIR VIEWS. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.
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PAGE 02 NATO 05260 01 OF 02 261541Z

1. THE SEPT. 17, 1975, USE INTERVENTION IN THE NAC ON STANDARDIZATION (REF A) WILL LEAD TO MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION OF THIS SUBJECT IN DECEMBER. BY THAT TIME, WE HOPE THE STEERING COMMITTEE UNDER THE NAC WILL HAVE

MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING PRINCIPLES FOR COOPERATION IN STANDARDIZATION, WITH A VIEW TO MINISTERIAL APPROVAL IN THE SPRING OF 1976 OF AN ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PRINCIPLES.

2. THE QUESTION OF HOW MINISTERS SHOULD CONSIDER THE STANDARDIZATION ISSUE, HOWEVER, POSES A PROCEDURAL PROBLEM. WORK IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN MINISTERIAL MEETINGS WILL PROCEED UNDER NAC AUSPICES; YET, THE DEFENSE MINISTERS HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATTERS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF ARMAMENTS. HOWEVER, THE INVOLVEMENT OF FRANCE IN STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS UNDER NAC AUSPICES WILL REQUIRE THAT NAC MINISTERS ADDRESS THE MATTER, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR DECISIONS. BUT SOME FOREIGN MINISTERS MAY BE EITHER UNWILLING OR DISINCLINED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITHOUT THEIR DEFENSE MINISTERS PRESENT, AND THIS, IN TURN, MAY PRESENT A PROBLEM FOR FRANCE.

3. AGAINST THE FOREGOING BACKGROUND, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS FOR WASHINGTON'S CONSIDERATION IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM; HOWEVER, WE WOULD CAUTION THAT, IN CONNECTION WITH THESE OPTIONS, PRIOR GREEK AND FRENCH APPROVAL WOULD BE REQUIRED:

OPTION A. ONLY THE DPC MINISTERIAL WOULD ADDRESS STANDARDIZATION AND THE FRENCH WOULD SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS IN WRITING TO SYG LUNS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY DEFENSE MINISTERS, AND FRANCE WOULD BE KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF DEFENSE MINISTERS' DECISIONS (ASYG FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT TUCKER SUPPORTS THIS APPROACH, WHICH HAS A PRECEDENT IN THE MANNER OF ADDRESSING AWACS).

ADVANTAGES:

-- DEFENSE MINISTERS, WHO HAVE THE ACTUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE MOST DIRECT INTEREST REGARDING STANDARDIZATION WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT IN DEPTH.

DISADVANTAGES:

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PAGE 03 NATO 05260 01 OF 02 261541Z

-- THE FRENCH, WHOSE PARTICIPATION WE DEEM ESSENTIAL IF STANDARDIZATION IS TO SUCCEED, WOULD BE ABSENT.
-- THUS THERE WOULD BE REDUCED OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FULL DIALOGUE WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE.
-- ANY PROPOSED ACTIONS WOULD HAVE TO HAVE NAC APPROVAL BEFORE THE FRENCH WOULD CONSIDER THEM BINDING.
-- WOULD PUT THE EMPHASIS ON STANDARDIZATION AT THE LEVEL OF THIRTEEN RATHER THAN FIFTEEN AND MIGHT IMPAIR SUPPORT FOR STANDARDIZATION IN FRANCE WHERE CRITICS WOULD SEE IT AS TOO CLOSELY RELATED TO THE DPC.

OPTION B. ONLY THE DPC MINISTERIAL WOULD ADDRESS STANDARDIZATION, BUT THE NAC COMMUNIQUE WOULD CONTAIN FOREIGN MINISTERS' ENDORSEMENT OF DPC RESULTS.

THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ARE THE SAME AS FOR A, ABOVE, BUT THE PUBLICATION OF A NAC COMMUNIQUE ENDORSING DPC RESULTS WOULD ATTENUATE THE DISADVANTAGES.

OPTION C. THE DPC MINISTERIAL WOULD BE THE PRIMARY FORUM FOR ADDRESSING STANDARDIZATION, THOUGH THERE WOULD ALSO BE A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF IT BY FOREIGN MINISTERS IN THE NAC MINISTERIAL WITH AN APPROPRIATE REFERENCE TO IT IN THE NAC COMMUNIQUE.

ADVANTAGES:

-- WOULD PROMOTE AN INFORMED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN DPC AMONG DEFENSE MINISTERS, WHO ARE MOST CLOSELY CONCERNED.
-- THE FRENCH AND GREEKS COULD PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE FOLLOWING NAC DISCUSSION.

DISADVANTAGES:

-- FOREIGN MINISTERS, UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY DEFENSE MINISTERS IN A POSITION TO SPEAK TO THE ISSUES, WOULD BE DEALING WITH ISSUES NOT NORMALLY IN THEIR PURVIEW, AND THE IMPACT UPON ALLIED DEFENSE MINISTERS MIGHT THEREFORE BE LESS.

OPTION D. SAME AS C, EXCEPT BOTH FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS WOULD BE PRESENT IN THE NAC. THIS APPROACH WOULD HAVE ALL THE ADVANTAGES OF THE APPROACH IN "C" ABOVE. MOREOVER, IT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE POSSIBILITIES OF WORTHWHILE DISCUSSION IN NAC BY MAKING AVAILABLE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DEFENSE MINISTERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NATO 05260 02 OF 02 261544Z

44

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 5260

OPTION E. A SHORT "NAC" MEETING, IN WHICH DEFENSE MINISTERS

RATHER THAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD PARTICIPATE, AND FRANCE AND GREECE WOULD BE REPRESENTED AS THEY CHOSE. SUCH A MEETING OF DEFENSE MINISTERS, SITTING AS THE NAC, COULD BE HELD THE AFTERNOON OF THE SECOND DAY OF THE DPC MINISTERIAL (DEC. 10) OR THE MORNING OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE NAC MINISTERIAL (DEC. 11). FOR THE SPRING MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, THIS COULD TAKE THE FORM OF AN "EXTRA-ORDINARY NAC" MEETING IN BRUSSELS, FOLLOWING THE DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, TO WHICH NATIONS COULD SEND DEFENSE MINISTERS, OR OTHERS AS THEY CHOSE, TO DISCUSS STANDARDIZATION.

ADVANTAGES:

- WOULD KEEP THE EMPHASIS ON STANDARDIZATION IN THE NAC RATHER THAN THE PDC.
- WOULD PROMOTE FULL DISCUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION AMONG THE MINISTERS MOST CONCERNED.
- WOULD AVOID ISSUE OF GREEK AND FRENCH RELUCTANCE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO A DPC MEETING OF ALLIED DEFENSE MINISTERS.

DISADVANTAGE:

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 05260 02 OF 02 261544Z

- IF FRANCE AND GREECE SENT REPRESENTATIVES BELOW THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, IT MIGHT INHIBIT FULL SUBSTANTIVE PARTICIPATION BY THOSE GOVERNMENTS IN THE DISCUSSION.

4. WE TEND TO FAVOR OPTION E, ABOVE, BUT CAN SEE MERIT IN OTHER APPROACHES. IN ANY CASE, WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS US PREFERENCES WITH THE FRENCH AND OTHER ALLIES WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, AND THUS WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE MAY BEGIN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN ADVANCE OF NAC DISCUSSION. BRUCE

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